

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

21 October 1952

SUBJECT: Dr. Anton BÖHM

1. Approximately one year ago I was notified by Mauritius that from a number of reports that had been intercepted between HÖTTL and Bonn the suspicion had arisen that BÖHM worked as a clandestine informant for HÖTTL. In consequence I made it a special task

- a. to keep BÖHM out of any operational knowledge even to a larger extent than before
- b. to check on his mail by clandestinely opening it
- c. to have him watched by CC 14 (which operation brought no derogative results)
- d. to have sample scripts from any typewriter whereto BÖHM was likely to have access (these samples proved that the reports were written on one of HÖTTL's typewriters - BÖHM himself is a very poor typer and definitely had not written the reports in question himself)

Careful cross-checking of these reports seemed to reveal that HÖTTL's informant could also have been another person in good contact with the development in Austria.

2. I had and still have the impression that BÖHM is not trying to cover a connection with HÖTTL from me. It was with my express permission that BÖHM edited HÖTTL's book "Die Geheime Front", and the work performed by him during that period was always loyally disclosed to me. On later occasions BÖHM edited a number of articles which HÖTTL has published - also here I have the impression that I was fully informed. When HÖTTL reopened his intelligence activity for Bonn, it was BÖHM who gave me the original tip, and it was him who kept me informed, as I believe, as far as he could find out details himself.

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3. I consider BÖHM a fairly reliable supporter of the U.S. course from the time when he was in charge of I. & E. (beginning of 1946) up to his release from civil internment at Camp Marcus W. Orr. He was released ahead of his time upon intervention by the Austrian Bishop's Council and resumed his activity as a writer, ghost writer and free-lance writer for a number of Austrian publishing houses. In particular he became employed as a political reviewer and analyst with Herder Verlag, formerly in Vienna and later in Freiburg/Breisgau, a position which he still holds. I have considered this activity an excellent cover as well as a good checking position on his trend of mind. Apart from this permanent part-employment, he is a collaborator (non permanent) with "Rheinischer Merkur", ADENAUER's house paper. When he was offered the political editorship of this paper, he declined, because he did not want to move to Germany and also, as he stated, did not want to leave his employment with us. It should be mentioned in this connection that his financial status would have been by far more advantageous to him. I am also aware of the fact that he has written for Suedwestdeutsche Rundfunk, and it was he himself who voluntarily kept me informed.

4. BÖHM's family life is satisfactory, he is attached to his wife and two children, who are nearly grown up; obviously his married life is not based on sex. Ever since BÖHM has been working for me - since fall 1947 - he has had liaisons with girls and usually long lasting ones. In this respect he has acted clandestinely, a fact which can, as I believe, easily be understood. These liaisons have cost him money, and I believe that mainly for this reason he is after not exactly a quick Groschen, but an additional income. In general, he seems somewhat attached to money, but I have so far not discovered that he endeavored to achieve money by dubious means.

5. His "necessity to have a large income" is the reason why I consider it possible that I may have to part from him as a close collaborator at a given time. This time definitely has not come yet.

6. For the time being I can hardly ^{spare} ~~use~~ him in my office, where he is a sound collaborator regarding personal background/biography and events of the past. His operational handling could be and should preferably be taken over by a younger man, but failing to have any prospect^{ful} successor

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at hand, I feel that I would severely harm my work if I would dispose of him by letting him go. I have to take into special consideration that he is a personal friend of the Salzburg Landeshauptmann, and that he is political adviser to the Austrian Catholic Action (an institution which I am planning to use extensively as soon as more detailed plans are laid down). I finally must consider that it is not out of the question that if I got rid of him, he would become employed by Bonn - the opening thereto would exist through "Rheinischer Merkur" and ADENAUER personally. My considerations in this respect are concerned with the fact that BÖHM could make an excellent liaison between Bonn and Austria, better than anything that exists so far. I believe that such development which undoubtedly would be partly clandestine and could become influenced by personal resentments would be against the interest of the Republic.

4.8.

Amendment:

BÖHM's present girl friend (and she has been for over two years) is Amny ERLINGER, dob 16 May 1928 at Maria Schmoll District, Braunau, Upper Austria. ERLINGER lives at Bräunhausstrasse 10 o/o Beckmiller. She has been in Salzburg since 29 August 1945, coming from Mattighofen, and lived at the following addresses during such period: Wolf Dietrichstr. 39; Alpenstr. 16; Getreidegasse 27; Siebenburgerstr. 7; Bräunhausstr. 10; Roseggerstr. 32; Bräunhausstrasse 10 again. Nothing derogatory is known so far.

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